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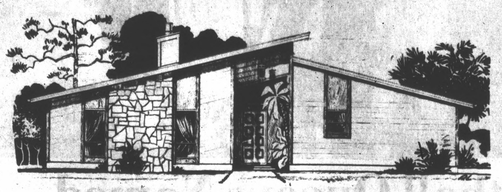

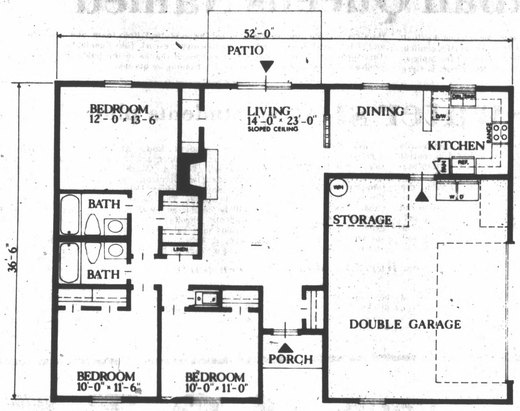

Plan No. 264

This unique plan affords spaciousness not usually found in a home this size.

Entering from the covered front porch, you proceed into the large living area which features:

*A sloped ceiling.

*A centrally located fireplace.

*Sliding doors to the rear yard patio.

*A large storage closet, for such things as card tables, and games.

The kitchen and dining areas are adjacent to the living area and are to the rear of the double garage. The kitchen has all built-in appliances and is separated from the dining area by a raised counter.

On the quiet end of the home, there are three bedrooms and two baths. The master bedroom has a private bath and a walk-in closet. The second bathroom is centrally located to the other bedrooms and for day guests.

The interesting exterior has long sloping roofs and features sloped siding and stone on the front. The glass panel about the front entrance provides extra daylight in the living area.

The home, design number 264, has 1,290 square feet of living space, 551 square feet in garage and storage, and 57 square feet in the porch.

Complete blueprints are available from E.A. Myers, residential designer, 1400 Scott Boulevard, Decatur, Georgia 30030. This plan appears in the sixth edition of the company's plan book.

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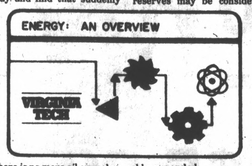
Fossil fuels

Energy resources will dwindle slowly

We know that there are limited amounts of fossil fuels on earth and that we are using them up at a rather rapid rate. However, the world won't wake up one day and find that suddenly there is no more oil or coal or gas.



Instead, it will go through a more gradual process of supplies tapering off, and we will have to be ready to make do with less or to substitute new energy sources for the ones we are running out of.

In 1956, M. K. Hubbert, a geologist with Shell Oil Company, outlined his theory of how supplies of an energy resource gradually increase, reach a peak, then decline and eventually are used up. He predicted that U.S. oil production would peak within 15 years. It peaked in 1970. Natural gas production peaked in 1973—a few years before Hubbert had predicted it would.

Hubbert's theory was not widely accepted at that time. After all, who wanted to believe that we were going to reach the limits of our oil production so soon? Events have shown him to have been right.

Hubbert also predicted that world oil production would peak in the year 2000, at the latest, and possibly as early as 1990. Estimates by other experts generally fall within that range, with some predicting world production will peak in the 1980's and others saying it won't peak until after 2000.

How fast we use up our fossil fuels depends on many factors. They can be classified under three very broad areas, as follows: Finding reserves of fossil fuels, the economics of extracting those reserves and environmental trade-offs.

Estimates of how much oil, gas and coal we have left vary. This does not necessarily mean we should challenge the credibility of the experts who do the estimating, but instead should recognize the difficulty of making such measurements.

Oil and gas under the ground are not contained in nice little pools where the volume can be easily and accurately calculated. Instead, they are contained in porus material, somewhat like water is held in a sponge. How would you measure the amount of water contained in a sponge if you couldn't squeeze it out?

The economics of using fossil fuels affect not only how fast we use them, but also how soon they will be replaced by alternate sources of energy.

As fossil fuels become less and less plentiful, the cost of extracting them increases. When an oil well is first drilled the oil comes to the surface under its own pressure. As it begins to decline, the oil must be pumped out. When it declines more, you must flush the oil out of the sponge-like substance by high pressure steam, detergents or other methods. Each step gets progressively more expensive.

It is also more expensive to drill for oil offshore and in Alaska, as we are doing now, than in Texas. How much of a fossil fuel we have left can depend on how much we are willing to pay for it.

For example, the recent deregulation of natural gas allows gas found below 15,000 feet to be sold at a higher cost than that found at more shallow levels. This has provided the motivation for companies to drill deeper for gas, and opens up the possibility that our gas reserves may be considerably expanded.

As declining fossil fuels become more expensive, it becomes more and more economical for the consumer to look to alternate sources of energy such as solar power and to conserve energy to extend the life of remaining fossil fuels.

How we want to treat our environment also affects how much oil, coal and gas we have left to use. Environmental groups have organized to oppose just about every proposal to extend energy supplies, including off-shore drilling for oil and gas, construction of the Alaskan pipeline development of new oil refineries and "superports," strip-mining of coal, approval of nuclear power plants and relaxed emission standards for fossil fuel plants.

These groups have in many cases been successful in delaying or stopping certain projects, but in many cases, the causes of delays are more complex than just environmental concerns. Environmental problems can be addressed in planning energy projects, and prevented or corrected to some extent–for a price.

In some cases, we must decide how much environmental protection we are willing to pay for, and in others, we may have to decide to what extent we are willing to sacrifice the environment for more energy. For example, if we commit to all free-flowing water in the United States, we could increase the amount of energy we get from hydroelectricity from 4 percent to perhaps 15 percent of our energy. How much would you be willing to cut back on your energy consumption before you would agree to this?

Some ways to increase our fossil fuel reserves, such as more strip mining, searching for fossil fuels in Alaskan "wilderness" areas and building large synthetic fuel plants would involve environmental trade-offs which must be considered.

References: "Survey of World Energy Resources," by M. King Hubbert, and "The Economics of the Energy Problem," by Helmut J. Frank and John J. Schanz, Jr., in "Perspectives on Energy," edited by Lon C. Ruedisili and Morris W. Firebaugh; "World Oil Production," by Andrew R. Flower, in Scientific American Offprints, March 1978.

This article is part of a course on energy offered by the Virginia Tech Mechanical Engineering Department and the Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, call your local extension office.

Band Boosters slate meeting

The ACHS Band Boosters will have their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at the high school.

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